

young or the technology that we adapt in our generation.

Nevertheless, the Court has ruled. We took that ruling. We modified the language to comply with the Court's restrictions. I have been attempting to bring this bill to the floor for several months. We have been blocked in doing so, not because it does not enjoy a majority of the vote but because the computer industry and the Internet industry do not want any restraint whatsoever.

We are trying to protect the innocence of children. We are trying to give parents a tool by which they can protect their children. We are trying to put penalties in place which will allow us to enforce restrictions against commercial purveyors of pornography that is harmful to minors. We have revised the standard to comply with the Supreme Court dictates, and we trust that this new legislation will pass Court muster. But in order to do so, it has to pass this body first. I think we are at the point of resolving the holds and the differences of opinion on how to proceed with this legislation.

Senator MCCAIN has legislation which provides access to software packages that are a help, but an imperfect help, in terms of dealing with the problem. I have legislation which I guess would be described as a stick to go along with the McCain carrot, the hammer to lay down the enforcement and put the penalties in place, put the restrictions in place. I think the two are very necessary for us to try to get a handle on this problem. It will not fully solve the problem.

The first line of defense has to be the family. It has to be the parents, has to be their oversight of what their children have access to—not only in the home but in the school, in the library. It is disappointing that schools and libraries—in particular, library associations—have opposed what we are trying to do. We think we have a consensus now on how to move forward. I am pleased that we are closing in on that and urge our colleagues to support the efforts that will take place shortly.

Thank you, Mr. President.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess until 11 a.m.

Thereupon, at 9:26 a.m., the Senate recessed until 11:00; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. HUTCHINSON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the state of Arkansas, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 2159, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2159) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Daschle amendment No. 3146, to provide a safety net for farmers and consumers regarding marketing assistance loans.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3146

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 3 hours' debate on the Daschle amendment numbered 3146.

Under the previous order the Senator from Mississippi, Mr. COCHRAN, is recognized.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, as I understand it, the time is equally divided. In view of the fact that this is an amendment offered by the Senator from South Dakota, I presume he or some other person who supports his amendment will come to discuss the provisions of the amendment for the benefit of the Senate.

Until that time arrives, if I suggest the absence of a quorum, I believe time would run equally against the proponents and the opponents of the amendment, is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That would require unanimous consent.

Mr. COCHRAN. I ask unanimous consent to that effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAX FISHER, OF MICHIGAN

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to actually announce to the Sen-

ate and to, at least from a distance, celebrate the 90th birthday of one of the great citizens of my State of Michigan, and also one of the truly great citizens of America, Max Fisher.

Mr. Fisher is a friend of many of us who have served in public office—certainly in Michigan, and even here at the national level—because of his longstanding involvement in the political process. But he is much more than a political activist, he is a business leader of great renown, having built very successful companies in our State and around the country. He has grown those companies and employed many, many Americans in a variety of different functions.

After establishing his business success, he then turned his attention to our State of Michigan and, most particularly, to his hometown of Detroit. There, for the last several decades, he has been one of the community's great leaders, very much involved in the development of Detroit, the rebirth of Detroit after the riots in that city in the sixties. He has been very active in the governance of southeastern Michigan in a variety of ways, investing his own time and resources in many worthwhile causes aimed at making certain that the Detroit metropolitan area remained a strong, economically vibrant, compassionate community, which it is today.

Mr. Fisher's involvements go beyond, however, his own hometown. He became active in the political process in the early 1960s. He became very involved in the activities of the then Governor George Romney, and then through that he began an involvement with the Republican Party on a national level. His interests, however, transcended his party. It clearly is an interest born of a love of this country and of the issues we confront. As a consequence, he has served as an advisor to many who have held office, both in the U.S. Senate and in the House of Representatives, and even the Presidency itself. He has been a close advisor and a close friend to Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and Bush, and I believe also some on the other side of the aisle as well. Indeed, tonight, at a celebration of his 90th birthday, several of our former Presidents will be in attendance to demonstrate their friendship and admiration for him.

Max Fisher's interests have gone beyond the shores of the United States as well. He is a great champion of the nation of Israel. He has played a very active role in the American Jewish community, various organizations and foundations; and, through several of those, he has provided a great deal of support and assistance to the development of the nation of Israel. I know that he is held in great esteem there as he is here in the United States.

His interest in others transcends just one particular cause. It basically applies to virtually every cause I am familiar with. His name is inevitably linked to charitable organizations, to

foundations, and various other community service entities in our State, as well as across this country, that try to make America and Michigan better places to live and better places to raise families.

In any event, Mr. President, Max Fisher has led a great life, and he has contributed much during that life to all of us, and to his nation in particular. So I wish to pay tribute to him on the event of his 90th birthday and also to pay tribute to him for the many things he has done to advance us, whether it is in the political arena, the business arena, the charitable arena, or a variety of others. Unfortunately, because of our schedule, I will not be able to participate in the events this evening that will commemorate his birthday. I know that I speak for a number of our colleagues, who have friendships with Max, in sending him, on all of our behalf, warm congratulations on this important event.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under whose time is the quorum call?

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I yield it on the basis of the time that has been yielded under the previous quorum call.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BUMPERS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BUMPERS. Parliamentary inquiry: Does the order provide for a quorum call?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The unanimous consent agreement called for the time to be counted equally against each side.

Mr. BUMPERS. I ask unanimous consent, with the permission of the Senator from Michigan, to divide the time of the quorum call between the two parties, the proponents and the opponents.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair.

#### AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that Dan Weiner, who is an intern in my office, be allowed to be in the Chamber during the debate on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3146

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from Wally Sparby, who is the State executive director of the Minnesota Farm Service Agency be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FARM SERVICE AGENCY, MINNESOTA STATE OFFICE,

St. Paul, MN, June 30, 1998.

DAN GLICKMAN,  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY GLICKMAN: Please find attached copies of letters received from several County Committees requesting that CCC commodity loans be extended. The Minnesota State FSA Committee is also requesting your assistance and support. Minnesota producers are facing an economic crisis and conditions will continue to deteriorate without assistance.

Market rates have dropped drastically. The last week of June 1995 producers were receiving an average market price of \$2.50 for corn. In the last week of June 1996 corn markets were averaging \$4.50 and in 1998 the corn price has dropped to an average \$1.92 per bushel. The same is true of wheat. The last week of June 1995 the average market price was \$4.50 per bushel; in 1996 the average was \$5.60 per bushel and in 1998 the price has dropped to an average of \$3.25 per bushel. Producers have no control over market prices and the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 and limited the marketing tool provided by the CCC commodity loan program.

Due in part to Minnesota's geographic location, transportation can be a major problem. Elevators are indicating there will be a shortage of transportation and storage this fall. As of June 29 there were 13.4 million bushels of wheat, 153.9 million bushels of corn, 31.3 million bushels of soybeans, and 3 million bushels of barely under CCC loan. There are also oats, flaxseed, sunflowers and canola under CCC loan in Minnesota. Of that total 191.2 million bushels and cwt. will mature between July 31, 1998 and December 31, 1998. CCC is already taking delivery of barley and we believe other grains will follow when loans mature. Elevators have indicated that they will be unable to take delivery of grain when the 1998 harvest begins. Harvest will coincide with loan maturity dates creating a major storage problem.

The CCC Commodity Loan Program is a marketing tool. Historically CCC commodity loans have provided producers with a chance to market their grain while obtaining capital at a reasonable interest rate. Prior to two years ago loans could be extended during periods of market downturns thus providing producers the flexibility to store their grain until the markets improve. Programs also provided for interest forgiveness and storage payments during market downturns.

Extension of CCC loans will only help producers if storage is available, if interest does not continue to accrue of the loans and if there is some type of income to sustain producers until the markets improve. We are proposing and asking for support of a farm storage facility loan program and the extension of CCC commodity loans. To provide a safety net we propose that when market rates reach a certain low that producers be paid storage and that interest stop accruing on CCC commodity loans. A summary of our proposal is attached.

We are also asking for full support of the proposal to remove the "cap" on corn and

wheat loans. The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 which "capped" the loan rate has resulted in loan rates below the five year average (dropping the high and low years). Historically local market have followed the CCC loan rate. It has only been in the past couple of years that has not been true. Higher loan rates would influence an improved market price for commodities.

We believe that in many cases these changes could mean the difference between the continuation of the family farm and liquidation.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

WALLY SPARBY,  
State Executive Director,  
Minnesota Farm Service Agency.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I speak in favor of this amendment introduced by Senator HARKIN and ask unanimous consent that if I am not already, I be included as an original cosponsor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. This amendment will lift the cap on the farmer's marketing loan rate and extend the loan repayment period from 9 months to 15 months. That sounds very impersonal, to lift the cap on the loan rate and extend the repayment period, but I say to my colleagues—and I know my colleague from North Dakota, Senator DORGAN, will speak about this as well—this proposal goes to the heart of what we must do this week if we are to respond to the economic pain, and for that matter, the personal pain, of many farm families in our country.

I will be going to another farm crisis meeting in Granite Falls, MN, in western Minnesota, this Saturday. I am hoping and praying I can come back with a report that we have been able to take some action that will give farmers some hope—it is really a desperate situation.

Wally Sparby, who is the director of the Farm Service Agency in Minnesota, is predicting that on the current course—and we have to change the course—we could see about 20 percent of the farmers in serious trouble. That is a lot of farmers in the State of Minnesota. Agriculture is very important to my State. From 1996 to 1997, we saw about a 38-percent drop in farm income.

When I talk to farmers at gatherings, or when I am in cafes in Minnesota, I think the one thing they talk about more than anything else—and I imagine you hear the same thing in Arkansas—is price. That is really the key thing—a fair price in the marketplace. That is what farmers are asking for. They are saying, give us a fair shake.

Now, unfortunately, that is not what is happening, and I believe that one of the mistakes that was made in the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, which I called then the "Freedom to Fail Act"—and I wish I could be proven wrong, but unfortunately I think the evidence which is staring us in the face proves me right—while we gave farmers the flexibility in planting, which I am all for,